



Parma Woods

Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

Spring 2007

Fishing Season Is Heating Up

Spring is here which means some of the best angling conditions as fish begin to spawn. The spawn is when fish reproduce. Most fish move into shallow water and are very protective of their nests. This means that the fish are usually easier to catch. As far as nests go, some species like largemouth bass and bluegill fan out bowl-shaped depressions with their tails. Some fish like crappie will often spawn deeper in clearer waters. Catfish like to nest in hollow logs and holes. White bass are broadcast spawners usually scattering eggs in rocky areas. Walleye also spawn in rocky areas. Around here, that usually means around the dams of lakes and riprap around bridges.

Walleye will normally move into shallows when the water temperature hits the low to mid 40s. Fish for them in rocky areas during low-light. After the walleye finish spawning, they start moving toward the main lake points. About the time the walleye start finishing up, the white bass start moving in to spawn. Whites seem to bite better when the wind blows in to these spawning areas.

Crappie are probably the most sought after fish during the spawn that usually occurs when the water temperature is in the low to mid 60s. Spots where many anglers are congregated along the shoreline or in flooded timber are good signs of hot fishing action. Be courteous and don't crowd other anglers. There are plenty of crappie to go around for all. If they don't bite in a particular spot, keep moving around. Water depth, clarity, and temperature can make the difference from one area to another.

Catfish will spawn when the water temperature gets into the low 70s. In late May and early June, look for the bowl shapes of bluegill nests along the banks. They will usually strike any little lure that you cast near their nests.

Remember that water level changes and weather fronts affect the length and strength of the spawns. Steady weather patterns and water levels are best. Check the fishing reports in *The Kansas City Star* on Thursdays, or surf the Internet to get an idea of what's biting. I read all of the reports to get an overall view since fishing action at all lakes is not the same. *The Star* reports also contain

water level and temperature information as well as maps of weather fronts. Sometimes fish will hit well for a few hours before a front and then turn off when a front hits.

So spool up your reel with new line, get your 2007 license, and head out to the water. Don't forget to follow all regulations, pick up and remove litter, be courteous to fellow anglers, and remember to take someone fishing with you! Just don't let them give away your best fishing holes. Good luck and good fishing!

Matt Knapp



Smithville Lake Walleye

Spring Events Calendar

All classes are free unless otherwise noted. All equipment is provided free by the Missouri Department of Conservation. You must pre-register by calling 816-891-9941.

April

Turkey Calling

Learn turkey calling and hunting basics.

April 4 (Wed.), 6-9 pm

Shotgun Patterning

Learn how to pattern your shotgun so you'll be ready for that big tom! **Must be 11 years or older.**

April 5 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Hunter Education

Learn the basics of hunting and shooting. Become certified in Hunter Education.

April 7 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Hunter Education

Learn the basics of hunting and shooting in this 3-night course. Become certified in Hunter Education.

April 10-12 (Tues.-Thurs.), 5:30-9 pm

Snake Identification

Learn how to positively identify Missouri snakes.

April 18 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Introduction to Fishing

Learn fishing basics including how to identify Missouri fishes and techniques for catching them.

April 19 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Bird Watching

Field time is spent learning bird identification and characteristics associated with each species.

April 29 (Sun.), 1-4 pm

May

Basic Firearms - Part 1

Learn firearms basics and do some shooting. **Must be 11 years or older.**

May 3 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Hunter Education

Learn the basics of hunting and shooting. Become certified in Hunter Education.

May 5 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Basic Firearms - Part 2

Learn firearms basics and do some shooting. Continuation of Part 1. **Must be 11 years or older.**

May 5 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Mushroom Hunting

Spend an afternoon hunting for delicious morel mushrooms.

May 6 (Sun.), 1-4 pm

Ladies Firearms Class

Learn how to safely handle firearms. Covers all types of firearms and includes live firing. This is a 2-day class. **Must be 11 years or older.**

May 10 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

May 12 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Ladies Shoot Free

Women shoot free all day during range open hours.

May 13 (Sun.), 10 am-4 pm

Youth Shoot Free

Young shooters ages 8-15 shoot free all day during range open hours. Must be with a parent or adult guardian.

May 20 (Sun.), 10 am-4 pm

Wing Shooting - Part 1

Learn wing shooting basics and improve your hunting success. **Must be 11 years and older.**

May 23 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

N.R.A. Shotgun Class

Learn the basics of shotgun shooting.

May 26 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Wing Shooting - Part 2

Learn wing shooting basics and improve your hunting success. Part 2 of the wing shooting class. **Must be 11 years and older.**

May 30 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn the basics of Dutch Oven cooking. You might get hooked on a new kind of cooking delicious recipes.

May 31 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

June

Intermediate Shotgun Class

Learn intermediate shotgun shooting techniques. **Must be 11 years and older and have shotgun experience.**

June 6 (Weds.), 6-8 pm

Fishing Rod Building

Learn how to get started building your own fishing rods.

June 10 (Sun.), 1-5 pm

Basic Archery

Learn the basics of archery, the equipment you need, and some techniques.

June 16 (Sat.), 9 am-noon

Hunter Education Day Camp

This is a week-long extended version of hunter education. Includes shooting on the range. **Must be 11 years and older.**

June 18-22 (Mon.-Fri.), 9 am-3 pm

Youth Rifle Class

Youngsters 8 years and older are welcome to join us to learn rifle basics. Students will shoot .22 rifles.

June 23 (Sat.), 8-10 pm

Outdoor Skills Day Camp

Come discover the outdoors. Students will experience several outdoor activities. This is a 3-day class.

June 27-29 (Weds.-Fri.), 9 am-3 pm

Introduction to Handguns

Learn handgun basics including shooting techniques. This is a 2-day class. **Must be 11 years and older.**

June 29 (Fri.), 6-8 pm

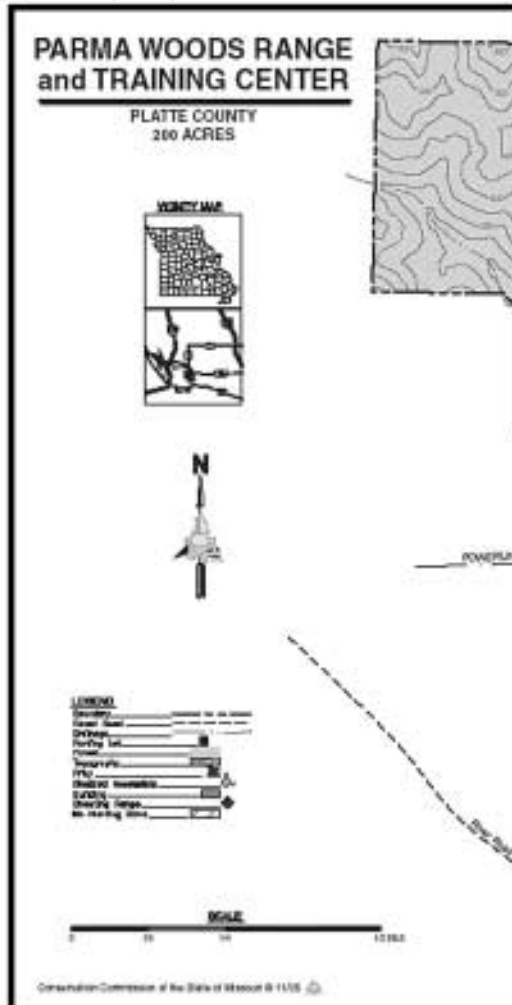
June 30 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Places to Go Close to KC and Across Missouri

www.missouriconservation.org

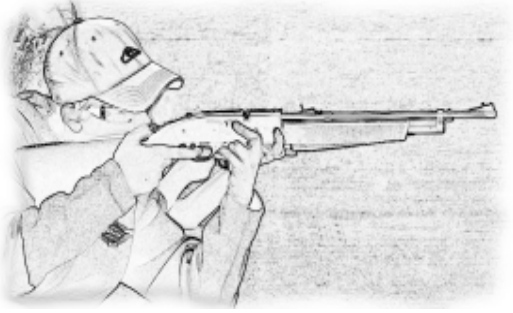


Many conservation areas in the Atlas have area maps with detailed information such as facilities and roads.



The www.missouriconservation.org website contains a wealth of information about places to visit. Select “How can I find areas near my home?” or click on “Atlas”. You will find an abundance of information that will help you discover the great outdoors. If you don't have a computer or Internet access, head on down to your local library. And if you're not into computers, you can still pick up a Discover Outdoor Missouri map that gives the locations of conservation areas and a brief description of each one.

When you enter the Atlas page, just insert an area name or type in a county or region of the state to get a listing of all areas found there. Then choose one of the areas to navigate to the general information page. Here you will find useful information about area activities, features, facilities, land cover types, and trails. Most also have an area map that you can print before heading there. You can also select a county or region and do a “detailed search”. Choose amongst many specific items such as hunting for turkeys, fishing for catfish, locating caves, and finding trails. The Atlas puts some powerful tools right at your fingertips.



RANGE HOURS

April: Friday-Tuesday. Noon-4:30 pm

May/June: Friday-Sunday, 10 am-4 pm
Monday-Tuesday, 2-8 pm

The range is closed Wednesdays, Thursdays and state holidays.

2007 Spring Turkey Hunting Season

Youth Season: March 31-April 1

Regular Season: April 16-May 6

*To find more turkey season information:
www.missouriconservation.org/7498*



Check out the latest Parma Woods news at: www.missouriconservation.org/2338

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Permit 274

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